

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takamasa Iwaki et al.  
Serial No.: 10/539,870  
Filed : December 5, 2005  
For : Floor Mat and Small Animal Rearing Cage  
Examiner: Son T. Nguyen  
Art Unit: 3643

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination filed in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2008 for which a shortened statutory period of three months ending September 5, 2008 was set in which to respond and for which to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), a one month extension, ending October 5, 2008 is hereby requested, the following amendments and comments are submitted and reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully submitted.

The fee required for the RCE and the fee of one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) for extending the time for a response within the first month after the original response date, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2) is being paid concurrently with the electronic filing of this response.

Applicants submit that in view of the electronic filing of this response, the response is timely.

**Listing/Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.